

IN THE CLAIMS

The Claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Original) A bacterial culture medium, for use under anaerobic conditions, comprising at least one metal complex which allows the oxidative polymerization of an indoxyl derivative and a substrate containing an indoxyl derivative resulting in an insoluble colored compound.
2. (Original) The culture medium as claimed in claim 1, in which said metal complex has a concentration of between 0.3 and 0.9 mg/ml, preferably 0.6 mg/ml.
3. (Original) The culture medium as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, in which said metal complex is ammoniacal iron citrate.
4. (Original) The culture medium as claimed in claim 1, in which said substrate is selected from X-Gal, X-Phos, X-acglmn, Mag-Gal, Mag- α -Gal, and Mal-Phos, preferably X-Gal.
5. (Original) The culture medium as claimed in claim 4, in which said substrate has a concentration of between 10 and 500 mg/l, particularly between 50 and 200 mg/l, preferably at 100 mg/ml.
6. (Currently Amended) The culture medium as claimed in claim 1, ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~, characterized in that it is intended for the detection of anaerobic bacteria, aerobic anaerobic bacteria and any bacterium producing a β -galactosidase.
7. (Original) The culture medium as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that it is intended for culturing bacteria of the genus *Bifidobacterium*, *Clostridium*, *Citrobacter*, *Escherichia*, and/or *Bacteroides*, in particular of the strains

Bifidobacterium bifidum, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Clostridium butyricum*, *E. coli*, and/or *Bacteroides fragilis*.

8. (Original) The culture medium as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that it comprises cysteinated Columbia medium.
9. (Currently Amended) The culture medium as claimed in claim 1, ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~, characterized in that it comprises, in addition, magnesium sulfate at a concentration of between 5 mM and 100 mM, preferably 20 mM, and/or at least one antibiotic.

Please cancel Claims 10-24

Please add Claims 25-27 as follows:

25. (New) The culture medium as claimed in Claim 1, wherein
 - a) there are added to a medium which may contain bacteria, cultured under anaerobic conditions, at least one substrate containing an indoxyl derivative resulting in an insoluble colored compound,
 - b) at least one oxidizing metal complex, in particular ammoniacal iron citrate, is added,
 - c) the appearance of a colored precipitate around the colonies (halo) and/or a color of the colonies is visualized.
26. (New) The culture medium as claimed in Claim 1, wherein
 - a) bacteria are cultured in said medium, and
 - b) the appearance of a colored precipitate around the colonies (halo) and/or a color of the colonies is visualized.

27. (New) The culture medium as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising an enzyme allowing the release of an indoxyl derivative from a substrate containing an indoxyl derivative.

REMARKS

In response to the above-noted Office Action, Applicant has elected Group I. Additionally, the non-elected claims have been cancelled. Claims 25-27 have been added as claims directed to a bacterial culture medium dependent upon Claim 1.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

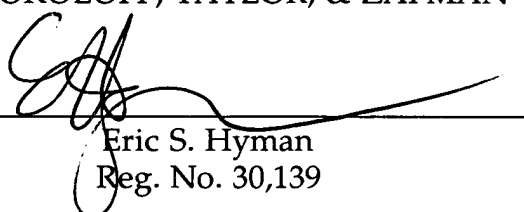
Per 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and in connection with the Office Action mailed TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2003, Applicant respectfully petitions Commissioner for a two (2) month extension of time, extending the period for response to WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2003. Attached is a check in the amount of \$420.00 to cover the petition filing fee for a 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(2) large entity. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN

Dated: October 22, 2003

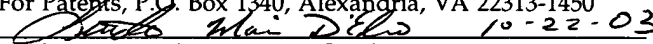
By: _____


Eric S. Hyman
Reg. No. 30,139

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class Mail, With Sufficient Postage, In An Envelope Addressed To: Mail Stop Amendments, FEE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1340, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Linda Marie D'Elia
October 22, 2003

ESH/lmd